



News Now

Mike DeWine, Governor
Lori Criss, Director



September 2, 2020

>>> Suicide Prevention Resources for Veterans

In recognition of September as Suicide Prevention Month, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services is pleased to share the following resources developed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):



BETHEREFORVETERANS.COM

The VA's [Be There campaign](#) emphasizes the role each person plays in preventing veteran suicide, inspiring hope and action among audiences by encouraging each of us to *Be There* (even in small ways) to support veterans. This resource includes information on how to [recognize warning signs](#) of crisis, [share inspiring stories](#) of recovery and hope, a [Social Media Safety Toolkit](#), a [PSA](#), and [downloadable content](#), among other materials.

PREVENTS SURVEY and PLEDGE

Earlier this year, the White House and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched [REACH](#), a national public health campaign aimed at empowering all Americans to play a critical role in preventing suicide. The goal of REACH, which was established by the [President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide \(PREVENTS\)](#), is to change the conversation around suicide by urging people to recognize their own risk and protective factors — as well as the risk and protective factors of their loved ones. REACH has made a number of [resources](#) available and is encouraging individuals to [sign the PREVENTS pledge](#) to help raise awareness of mental health challenges and suicide prevention practices to reduce suicide. Veterans are also encouraged to participate in the [PREVENTS Survey](#), which will be available until Sept. 30.

Some Ohio-specific resources include:

Star Behavioral Health Providers | <https://starproviders.org/states/ohio>

Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation | <https://www.ohiospf.org/military-veteran/>

Ohio Department of Veterans Services | <https://dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/resources-for-veterans/more-resources/mental-health>

>>> Registration Open for Ohio's 2020 Virtual Recovery Series

Ohio's *Virtual Recovery Series* will kick off on Sept. 29. Presented by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities in partnership with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Cardinal Health Foundation, the series will highlight important issues related to recovery from both mental illness and substance use disorders and provide opportunities for learning and connection for those in recovery, their loved ones, and behavioral health professionals. The first event will feature Zack McDermott, author of *Gorilla and the Bird: A Memoir of Madness and a Mother's Love*. Zack will share his story of diagnosis and treatment for Bipolar Disorder, the crucial role his family plays in his recovery, and how COVID-19 has impacted his recovery. Participants will also hear from an Ohioan in recovery on their journey to wellness. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the series and to register.



>>> Ohio Women's Network 2020 Symposium – Oct. 16

The Ohio Women's Network will host its 2020 Symposium on Oct. 16. Participants will have the opportunity to attend in-person at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus, or online. Cost is \$85 and includes CEUs for Ohio Social Workers and Chemical Dependency Counselors. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

>>> New PSAs Raise Awareness of the Effects of COVID-19 on the Opioid Crisis

The [Ohio Opioid Education Alliance](#) this week launched a new PSA campaign to raise awareness of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the opioid epidemic. COVID-19 is impacting mental health and increasing risk for substance misuse. The Alliance noted in a press release that Franklin County alone has seen a 65 percent increase in overdose deaths in the first six months of 2020. The Alliance teamed up with Columbus Public Health and the Franklin County Health Department to produce the new creatives. Click [HERE](#) to view the new campaign.



>>> New Webinar Series Explores Substance Use Disorders from Faith-Based Perspective

As part of Ohio's State Opioid Response grant initiative, the [Summit County Community Partnership](#) has teamed up with The House of the Lord, a non-denominational, multi-cultural church in Akron, to launch a new webinar series: *In Case You Didn't Notice: Substance Use Disorder and How You Can Make a Difference*. The live series kicks off Sept. 4 at noon with presentations from Bishop Joey Johnson and Dr. William Goldman, medical director, Akron Children's Hospital Addiction Service Program. Future installments will take place each Friday in September from noon-1 p.m. Click the links for more information and to register. Questions? Email Darryl Brake at dbrake@cpsummit.org.

Sept. 4 | [In Case You Didn't Notice – Addiction Changes the Brain](#)

Sept. 11 | [In Case You Didn't Notice – Fears and Concerns that Can Hinder Successful Recovery](#)

Sept. 18 | [In Case You Didn't Notice: No One Has to Be Alone](#)

Sept. 25 | [In Case You Didn't Notice: COVID-19, Opioid Use Disorder, and the Faith Community](#)

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). For behavioral health-specific information, visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus>. For behavioral health-related questions, email covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov. For COVID-19-related OTP questions, email OTP_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov, for Housing questions, email COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov and for Telehealth questions, email COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov. COVID Careline 1-800-720-9616. Click [HERE](#) for a list of pop-up COVID-19 Testing Sites.

In the News

9.1.20 | *The News-Herald* [Army veteran finds the beginning of a new road with SMART Recovery USA](#)

9.1.20 | *Cleveland.com* [Ohio Medicaid seeks to make expanded telehealth permanent](#)

8.31.20 | *WKEF-TV* [Montgomery County Sheriff's Office launches new Crisis Intervention Team](#)

8.31.20 | *WSYX-TV* [Emotional International Overdose Awareness Day event held in Newark](#)

8.31.20 | *Norwalk Reflector* [Huron County Veterans Service Office to introduce new mental health program](#)

8.31.20 | *WRGT-TV* [Remembering overdose victims on Overdose Awareness Day](#)



#MasksOn

Please share widely and encourage your colleagues to subscribe to *OhioMHAS eNews* on our [website](#).

Also, be sure to join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Flickr](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!